

Director's Message

I am delighted to once again send all our BGSU Greek Alumni this Greek Alumni E-Newsletter for Spring 2005! Keeping our Greek alumni up to date on the latest news in the Greek Community is a priority for Greek Affairs and one that we greatly enjoy.

When we examine the relationship between fraternities and sororities and BGSU, we know that fundamentally it exists between the institution, the undergraduates, and our alumni. Our strongest chapters tend to be ones that have a strong alumni/ae base that works well with the undergraduates. As we work with our chapters we try to keep in mind this relationship and work as partners with our undergraduates and alumni. A first step in this process is good communication between Greek Affairs and our alumni. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and perusing our comprehensive web site. Please send us your suggestions on how we can improve our communication with our alumni.

Dr. Ron Binder '86

Associate Director of Residence Life and Director of Greek Affairs

Beta Theta Pi fraternity closes It is always difficult for the Greek community when a chapter leaves our campus. This spring, the national headquarters and alumni advisors of Beta Theta Pi decided to leave BGSU's campus after 43 years of involvement in the Greek community. Greek Affairs is currently working with Beta Theta Pi alumni and national headquarters to bring back the fraternity in a timely manner. The chapter is leaving on good terms and we look forward to welcoming them back in the future.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Delta Chi Phi Multi-Cultural

Sorority receive houses Greek Affairs is happy to announce that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will be moving into their new house this Fall semester. BGSU will be leasing houses near campus to house six members of the sorority, with one of their senior members acting as a resident advisor. AKA recently celebrated 30 years at BGSU where the announcement was made. We currently house four of the eight NPHC groups on the yard.

In addition to Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Chi Phi Multi-Cultural sorority will also have a house this Fall semester. Their three-person house will be located next to the AKA house. Delta Chi Phi is a new sorority at BGSU and currently has 30 undergraduate members. We currently house two of the three Greek Independent Board chapters. We are proud to expand our housing options for all our groups at BGSU and welcome our newest members.

Expansion Update

BGSU has embarked on an aggressive expansion program to bring more Greek groups to BGSU. Over the next three years, three national fraternities will begin new chapters at BGSU. All of these chapters were here originally at some time or another (preference is given to groups that have previously been at BGSU because they generally have a good alumni base to draw upon for advisors, which is critical if a chapter is to be successful).

Below is the expansion schedule for BGSU:

Fall 2005

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity (left campus in 1994)

Fall 2006

Phi Kappa Psi fraternity (left campus in 1996)

As with any expansion effort, the key is finding good alumni who are willing to serve as advisors. If you wish to find out more about serving as a volunteer advisor, call us at 419.372.8890.

Upcoming Events

For a complete calendar of upcoming events for the Greek community at BGSU, please visit:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/greekaffairs/calendar.html>

Latest Stats on BGSU Greeks

Each semester Greek Affairs compiles a Greek Report, which includes such statistics as the number of chapter members, GPA's, service hours, philanthropy dollars raised, percentage of involvement of Greeks at BGSU, chapter attendance at leadership schools, etc. This report is a great measuring instrument to gauge how well fraternities and sororities fulfill their founding values of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Brotherhood/Sisterhood. The Greek Report is widely publicized in the BG News, the Parents Newsletter (mailed to all parents of Greeks at BGSU), at recruitment functions, etc. This report is also used for the Greek Awards in the spring.

On the Greek Affairs web site is a copy of the latest report, along with previous reports

(www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/greekaffairs/reports.html).

These reports are a great way for alumni to track the progress of their groups from afar.

Homecoming 2005

Homecoming 2005 is just around the corner! This year, Homecoming will be held the week of September 25th with the Homecoming game occurring on Saturday, October 1st against Temple. If you know that your chapter is holding an event during that week, please submit the information to Josh Harraman, Greek Affairs Graduate Assistant for Public and External Relations at harramj@bgsu.edu. Greek Affairs will be coordinating marketing for the events with the Homecoming steering committee and Alumni Affairs. For a complete list of events, please visit

<http://homecoming.bgsu.edu/>.

Greek Awards 2005

This past year, more Greek chapters applied for Chapter Excellence Awards than any year before. These awards are given to recognize chapters and individual members for upholding the Greek community values of scholarship, service, leadership, and brotherhood/ sisterhood. Are you interested in seeing what your chapter has accomplished this past year? To see the honors and awards that were presented to chapters and individual Greek community members, please visit our web site for a complete list of award recipients, both individual and chapter (www.GreekBGSU.com).

Leadership Programs

Bryan Figura '05: Leadership Programs Graduate Assistant Leadership programs in Greek Affairs are on a roll, due largely to the hard work of the Greek Leadership Team (GLT), a newly formed peer education group comprised of 15-20 fraternity and sorority members who are responsible for designing and facilitating leadership workshops and classes for Greek members. The programs they currently plan are Leadership Academy (a one-day leadership program for the BGSU campus), Greek Odyssey (a one-day program offered each semester for new members of fraternities and sororities), and Emerging Leaders (a two-night retreat held each semester for up and coming Greek leaders). Members of the GLT also help to teach several leadership classes including one that is tailored for Greeks.

On February 12, the Greek Leadership Team sponsored Greek Odyssey, our one-day orientation program for new members of fraternities and sororities that focused on building relationships between new members, educated them about Risk Management issues, and celebrated the uniqueness of each chapter. Greek Odyssey was a hit, for attendance was high and the students, by the size of the smiles on their faces, really seemed to enjoy it.

The weekend of April 1-3, 2005, the Greek Leadership Team held their Emerging Leaders program, a three-day retreat held at an off-campus location. It is an opportunity for fifty "emerging leaders" in the Bowling Green fraternity and sorority community to build community and learn advanced leadership skills through a series of workshops and activities.

Lastly, the leadership curriculum for Greek Affairs continues to grow, for we now offer four leadership classes, enabling our students to learn leadership theory and apply it to practice in their personal lives and university involvement. We are fortunate to have the resources to provide such a comprehensive leadership program.

Housing Changes at BGSU

Kevin Thompson '06: Housing and Finances Graduate Assistant There are a few changes of note in the world of Greek Housing at Bowling Green State University. The first is that the University has moved to a deposit system for all housing on campus. As a result, each student needs to submit a deposit of \$200 to the University to hold a room for them for next Fall semester, which includes Greek housing. This payment can be made via check, cash, or credit card.

The second update is that last semester the sign-up date for Greek Housing was changed to December 10, 2004 based on feedback gathered through the Greek Housing Task Force last semester. Greek housing relies on having a few juniors and seniors to keep our houses full and the move to an early sign-up date helped these students make the decision earlier in the year.

The third is that we have begun to allow our Greek students to paint their individual rooms to make them feel more like home. BGSU provides the paint and supplies and gives students a range of colors to select from. We have had many students take advantage of this program. In addition we have allowed our groups to paint the common areas more in line with their chapter colors. Several groups have added crests and symbols of their group to make the house more personalized.

This summer we will once again be undertaking some significant renovations to Greek houses. Annually we spend \$400,000 to \$500,000 to keep our houses up-to-date and looking attractive. Projects this year include replacing various roofs, replacing lock sets in some of our houses, installing new flooring (tile and carpeting) in various locations and continuing to provide more outdoor space through landscaping. Our goal is to continually upgrade the fraternity and sorority houses.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kevin Thompson, Greek Graduate Assistant for Greek Housing at tkevin@bgnet.bgsu.edu or call 419.372.2575.

Greek Honor Societies

Hilary Erlenbach '05: President Order of Omega, Andrea Obrochta '06: Assessment and Scholarship Graduate Assistant, and Josh Harraman '06: Public and External Relations Graduate Assistant

Gamma Sigma Alpha and Order of Omega are the two Greek honoraries on BGSU's campus. Order of Omega has been very involved on our campus and Gamma Sigma Alpha has been growing in numbers and support this past year to gain a strong presence in our Greek community.

Gamma Sigma Alpha - National Greek Academic Honor Society strives to uphold the high ideals of scholastic achievement, and therefore, only students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) of Junior or Senior status, or a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in fall or spring semester during their Junior or Senior year, are eligible. This elite group represents the top 3% of Greeks at BGSU academically. The one-time membership fee is \$50. Many chapters cover this fee for their members as a part of their academic incentives package for members who perform well academically. Gamma Sigma Alpha recently held an Academic Bowl where fraternities and sororities competed to see who knew more information in general and about BGSU. Gamma Sigma Alpha also selects the Scholar of the Week, who receives recognition on the Greek BGSU web site and a \$10 gift certificate to Collegiate Connection, the local Greek store.

Order of Omega - National Greek Leadership Honor Society honors the top 3% of fraternity and sorority members for leadership nationally. Members are selected by the current members each semester based on achieving a 2.87 cumulative GPA or higher, attaining a Junior or Senior status, and significant leadership in both the Greek Community and on the BGSU campus. The Order is stronger than ever with many recognizable leaders on campus now initiated into their ranks. The Order recently completed the selection process for the Spring 2005 semester with initiation being held on Friday, April 1, 2005. Recently Order of Omega sponsored an etiquette dinner for Greek seniors to prepare them for interviews and will be sponsoring a program this fall on "How to Sell Your Greek Experience."

For more information about Gamma Sigma Alpha or Order of Omega, please visit www.gammasigmaalpha.org, www.orderofomega.org, www.GreekBGSU.com or please contact Andrea Obrochta, Greek Graduate Assistant for Scholarship & Assessment at 419.372.2581.

National Pan-Hellenic Council

President: Bethany M. Winston '05

As the year comes to a close, the National Pan-Hellenic Council's most committed members work to bring a campus wide community service to its minority students; "The Black Graduation Banquet." This banquet will be the 2nd Annual Banquet to take place on behalf of the council and other sponsors. It features accomplishments of the graduating seniors and two book scholarships are presented.

The council is also looking forward to elections in the upcoming month of April. In addition, at the conclusion of the month, council organizations will be participating in "Springfest" - an annual end of the year celebration, which features a stepshow of the Greek Organizations here on campus.

In conclusion, I would like to say it has been a remarkable life lesson to serve as the president of this council this year. In addition to gaining a true understanding of what it means to be a leader, I have learned what it means to have valuable friendships amongst those you work with whether it is administration, your executive board, or just interaction with other Greek brothers and sisters of any council. I thank my council NPHC, Greek Affairs, and all those of any Greek affiliation that I interacted with over the last year. Your presence and passion for Greek life has truly been felt by me.

Panhellenic Council

President: Fay Coleman '06

The Panhellenic Council at Bowling Green State University is a student-run governing board for the 14 National Panhellenic Council (NPC) sororities and one National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) sorority.

As the largest women's organization on BGSU's campus, the Panhellenic council is constantly striving to serve the needs of its members.

At the end of January, the growth of the Panhellenic Council grew by approximately 90 members during the spring recruitment period. The Greek community is thrilled to welcome these new members into our

organization! To kick off the experience for new members, a leadership program, Greek Odyssey, was offered on February 12, 2005. This event informed new members of issues such as scholarship, risk management, and Greek values.

The Panhellenic Council is extremely committed to scholarship and academic enhancement. This semester, the council will be taking part in a few programs. One program, "Letters at the Library," is a weekly event, which occurs at the library to promote Greek academics and unity. Raffle prizes and gift certificates are given weekly to those who attend. Furthermore, the Panhellenic Council is taking part in the National Panhellenic Conference Academic Excellence Challenge, which encourages women to raise their cumulative grade point averages by .05 or higher. Our goal, by implementing these programs, is to raise the all sorority GPA above the all women's GPA, and to show the BGSU community that our Council is committed to academic excellence.

At the 2005 Mid-American Greek Council Association Conference (MGCA) in February, the council was recognized for their commitment to Greek life from the previous year. The council walked away with five out of the eight awards including: Academic Achievement, Council Management, Philanthropy and Community Service, Leadership and Educational Development, and Membership Recruitment. Furthermore, the council was one of the four finalists for the Sutherland Award. Being a finalist in our division was such a huge honor and a great representation of Bowling Green State University. The council is excited for the upcoming year, and is looking forward to further achievements!

Interfraternity Council

President: Andy Crockett '06

On behalf of the Interfraternity Council, it is my privilege to thank all the alumni for their continued support and involvement in the Greek Community and Bowling Green State University. There have been many exciting events that have transpired since the last newsletter. First and foremost, it was our honor to host the executive staff of the North American Interfraternity Conference for a day last November. The visit was a series of many the NIC made to college campuses across the country. We were one of the schools the NIC visited in order to thank us for our continued success as a premier Greek Community in the nation.

This year we are also making improvements in several focus areas. We are continuing our strong recruitment efforts. Director of Recruitment David Chambliss is working hard to ensure that we maintain our progress towards a premier recruitment program with efforts this semester as well as steady planning for Recruitment programming this summer. Academically, Scholarship Chair Tom Balicky has been making great strides to improve our academic program by working regularly with chapter scholarship chairs and looking at our programs to see what can be improved.

Membership Development Chair Matt Maurer has also been hard at work enhancing our Member Development programming by improving our new member program entitled "Greek Odyssey" as well as plans to implement the New Member Greek Council for future leaders. We are also improving our Public Relations program with the help of public relations chair Rob Jarowski, who is helping IFC make stronger connections with the monthly Greek Newspaper entitled "The Gavel". Technology Chair Brian Cultice is also working hard to improve our website.

Our council has implemented improved streamlined communications by creating e-mail listserves for a majority of chapter officers to use for their benefit. I am also pleased to announce that our council has turned in application booklets to the Mid- American Greek Council Association for Awards for the first time in many years. I am happy to announce that the Mid- American Greek Council Association has recognized our Interfraternity Council with the Outstanding Council Management Award. I would like to thank former IFC Executive Assistant Brian Bickley for filling out the award packet. In closing, I would once again like to thank you, our alumni, for your continued support of our great fraternities.

Greek Independent Board

President: Janelle Oliger '06

The Greek Independent Board is currently focusing on academics and working on an academic plan. Our goals for the semester are to raise our GPA, do more community service on campus, and to build unity within the council and with other Greeks on campus.

This year marked the first year GIB was represented at the Mid-American Greek Council Association (MGCA). The conference greatly benefited our council by teaching the necessary skills to become a more successful organization. This conference benefited our council through learning more about scholarship, leadership, and unity.

Greek Independent Board is busy preparing for our First Annual 2-on-2 Basketball Tournament and our Second Annual Awards Banquet. The basketball tournament will be held on April 23. The money raised will aid GIB in scholarship awards and projects. The banquet recognizes each organization, their outstanding members, and our advisors.

In closing, GIB would like to congratulate three of our members. Congratulations to Florinda Hernandez for her honor as Greek of the Week. Secondly, congratulations to Jeannine Ware who received the Outstanding President Award. Finally, we congratulate the first Scholar of the Week, Yvette Castro. Congratulations to all and we look forward to another great semester.

Panhellenic Women Honored at MGCA

By: Holly Mittelmeier '06

In every well-established Greek society, there are always those that stand out, those that never stop giving, and those that make us proud to be Greek. Two of those individuals were honored at the Mid-American Greek Council Association (MGCA) in February.

Fay Coleman, Panhellenic President, received the National Panhellenic Conference Regional scholarship, and Hilary Erlenbach, former Chief Justice on Panhellenic and Order of Omega President, received the Wayne C. Colvin Award.

The National Panhellenic Conference Regional Scholarship is only awarded to five women in the country, and Coleman received the award for our region. She had to apply as well as get a letter of recommendation from Dean Harwood, the advisor for Panhellenic. Coleman has been involved in several university activities and has served on committees such as the Greek Leadership Task Force. She is a member of the Psi Chi, Phi Eta Sigma, and Gamma Sigma Alpha honor societies, was a UNIV 100 Peer Facilitator last semester, and will be an Orientation Leader this summer. For Chi Omega, she served on the Sisterhood Committee, house manager, and was one of two Chi Omegas selected nationally to receive a full scholarship to attend UIFI in May 2004, a Greek Leadership Institute. She started her Panhellenic experience last year, serving as Vice President of Scholarship on executive board. Coleman used a rather creative approach in helping chapters enhance their academic programs, starting several programs that provide incentives and motivation, and even worked with a graduate intern in the Residence Life Offices to write a Scholarship plan for Greek Affairs. "Fay's work and ideas have taken the focus on scholarship within Panhellenic and the Greek communities to a new level the past year," says Dean Harwood, head advisor for Panhellenic. "Fay is a worthy recipient of this scholarship," he states. Coleman says that the award is the largest honor she has ever received. "Being recognized in front of so many people and representing BGSU was by far my proudest moment in my collegiate career," says Coleman.

The purpose of the Wayne C. Colvin Award is to 'recognize undergraduate Greek leaders who are role models and consistently illustrate what it means to live with integrity and by the values of their Greek founders'. Nominees must be involved in campus organizations, serve their community, and show commitment to

scholastic success. Over the past 3 years, Hilary Erlenbach has served as DGR, Vice President of Panhellenic, and lastly as President of Delta Gamma. The Vice President position got her interested in Panhellenic and she served as Chief Justice on executive board last year. She was Treasurer of Order of Omega and presently serves as President. She also was on the Dance Marathon Core Committee as Director of Fundraising. Erlenbach had to be nominated by her Greek advisor and had to get three letters of recommendation.

Dean Harwood nominated Erlenbach to thank her for all her hard work within the Greek community. "The one lesson I would like other students to learn from Hilary is that one person can make a difference simply by accepting, and seeking out, new challenges. Hilary has never been satisfied with sitting on the sidelines when there is an opportunity to do something meaningful," he says. "I am convinced that Hilary will always be an active leader in whatever she does."

"Receiving this award was a great honor and a tremendous surprise," says Erlenbach. "I feel so fortunate to be recognized for doing what I love to do-helping the Greek community. I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization that has afforded me so many opportunities, for which I will always be grateful."